

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for treating a polymeric optical element which includes the steps of mounting a polymeric optical element into a chamber, injecting a compressed gas as an annealing medium into the chamber and annealing the polymeric optical element and removing the annealing medium from the chamber. The present method provides a new way of preventing disadvantageous molecular orientation and residual stress which causes a deterioration in the optical properties of the polymeric optical element.